

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 14, 16, 21, 26, 28, and 33-37 and add new claims 40-58. Please note that all claims currently pending in the application are included below for clarity, and a marked-up version of the claims is appended to the end of this response.

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1 1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a mounting portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line
3 from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector on the
4 mounting portion; and
5 a routing portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing
6 portion to route at least one signal line from a second card connector on the circuit
7 board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the mounting
8 portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector on the
9 circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing portion
2 comprising a single integrated component.

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1 3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one
2 other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one signal line
3 from a third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a third
4 communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the
5 third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the mounting
6 portion.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least one other
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising:
2 a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting
4 portion.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser comprising a
2 single part.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially transverse to
2 the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

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1 9. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
4 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
5 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
6 one signal line;
7 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
8 least one signal line;
9 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
10 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
11 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
12 on the mounting portion; and
13 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
14 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
15 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
16 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
17 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
18 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card secured in
2 one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on
3 the mounting portion.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral
2 card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of the first
2 card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card
3 connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing portion
2 comprising a single integrated component.

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1 14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
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4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least one other
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

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1 16. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising:
2 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
4 portion.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser comprising a
2 single part.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially transverse
2 to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit board
2 separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening
3 card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 21. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a chassis;
3 a circuit board disposed in the chassis;
4 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
5 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
6 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
7 one signal line;
8 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
9 least one signal line;
10 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
11 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
12 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
13 on the mounting portion; and
14 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
15 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
16 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
17 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
18 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
19 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card secured in
2 one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on
3 the mounting portion.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral
2 card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line of the first
2 card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card
3 connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

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1 25. The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the routing portion
2 comprising a single integrated component.

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1 26. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least one other
2 routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

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1 28. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising:
2 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
4 portion.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser comprising a
2 single part.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially transverse
2 to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the circuit board
2 separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening
3 card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 33. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 first routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one signal
3 line from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector
4 disposed on the first routing means; and
5 second routing means including a communication means, the communication means of
6 the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from a second card
7 connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second communication
8 means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the second
9 card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector disposed on the
10 first routing means.

1 34. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a third routing
2 means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from a third
3 card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third communication
4 means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the third card
5 connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first routing
6 means.

1 35. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and second
2 communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of the
3 second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

1 36. (Amended) A method comprising:

2 securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board;
3 securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board;
4 routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a
5 first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the
6 mounting structure;
7 routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board
8 through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;
9 and
10 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a
11 second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector
12 on the mounting structure.

1 37. (Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2 securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;
3 routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through
4 a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;
5 and
6 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third
7 communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the
8 mounting structure.

1 38. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit
3 board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and
4 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the
5 circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.

1 39. The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a peripheral card in
2 one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the second card connector
3 on the mounting structure.

Please add new claims 40-58, as set forth below.

1 40. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 41. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an optical path.

1 42. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 43. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an optical path.

1 44. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 45. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second
2 communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing
3 portion comprises an optical path.

1 46. (New) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
4 extending therefrom;
5 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
6 extending therefrom;
7 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
8 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
9 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
10 on the mounting portion; and
11 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
12 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
13 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
14 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
15 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
16 disposed on the mounting portion.

1 47. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a peripheral card
2 secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card
3 connector on the mounting portion.

1 48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, the mounting portion to orient the
2 peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 49. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, the mounting portion and the routing
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 50. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
3 extending therefrom; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, the routing portion and the at least one
2 other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 52. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion comprising:
2 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
3 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
4 portion.

1 53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 54. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 55. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.